

the Department of Agriculture (USDA) relocated the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to Kansas City, they are operating with roughly 30% fewer employees, with former USDA Director of Communications Matt Herrick admitting that these agencies had “lost some of the nation’s best economists and agricultural scientists.”

Furthermore, nearly 300 employees retired or quit after the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) moved its headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado. The Biden administration’s return of BLM headquarters to our nation’s capital is greatly appreciated and will go a long way to restore the valuable expertise that has been lost.

While I do not expect the Biden administration to move agencies out of the NCR, this bill would protect against irrational decisions of future presidents. Unless measures like this bill are taken to stop agencies from relocating, the federal government will lose more employees and agencies will be unable to perform critical tasks, including assisting Congress in vital oversight.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN BRENTS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Brents on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles Police Department. After thirty years of dedicated civic service to the people and communities of Los Angeles, Ms. Brents will be sorely missed.

Ms. Karen Brents’ extensive career with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) began in 1989. Her excellence in the field and outstanding performance in emergency situations led to her receiving over thirty commendations within the Department and a promotion to Police Service Representative III (PSR III) in 1996. During her tenure, she was recognized by the District Attorney’s office for her exemplary courtroom behavior and communication skills.

Ms. Karen Brents was also deeply involved with training the next generation of 9–1–1 dispatchers and was a productive and reliable asset to the training cadre. Because of her deep engagement and dedication to the training program, Ms. Brents received multiple accolades and certificates for her hard work.

Ms. Karen Brents likewise received a dozen certificates and recognitions for her service and contribution to her community, including the 2006 certificate of achievement to the

Community Relations Unit, the 2000 National Dispatchers Week, and a 2006 certificate of achievement from the California Public Safety Radio Association (CAPRA).

For her remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Police Service Representative III Karen Brents. Her decades of civic service and commitment are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REP.
ESTEBAN TORRES

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Congressman Esteban Torres.

Congressman Torres was a Los Angeles icon, a beloved public servant who proudly represented East Angelinos here in the People’s House for nearly two decades. He was a trailblazer who paved the path for someone like me—the son of working class, Mexican immigrants—to stand here in this chamber today.

A Decorated Korean War veteran and labor organizer, he never stopped fighting to lift up the working class and advance immigrant rights. He stood for all that is good and just, and his legacy should be a model for all those who serve in this body.